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March on Washington

250,000 men and women, black and white, young and old, trek down Washington D.C. with the hope of change. It was a dream of a man that took twenty two years before it was finally planned out. Something as important as this couldn’t be without opposition, but it all worked out for the peaceful crowd in the end. The March on Washington is one of the most remembered events in the history of America. The effects it created included more awareness of the movement, a peaceful demonstration, and this eventually led to the African-Americans obtaining the rights they deserved.

Ala Phillip Randolph was dreaming of the day for twenty two years. When it came he was seventy four, old but still fighting with a taste of equality in his mouth. President John F. Kennedy opposed the idea of the march but when it was sure to be done, he supported it. There was already an obstacle in the morning. Someone placed a bomb threat on the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. Police checked it out and found nothing. Also, the Neo-Nazis met outside the march but couldn’t demonstrate or say anything. The planned meeting failed with only a couple hundred of the supposed thousands met. Even the leader said, “I am ashamed of my race.” Over two thousand buses, twenty one trains, ten airlines, and a countless amount of cars brought the marchers to D.C. The quarter million met at the Washington Monument waiting for the leaders, A. Phillip Randolph, Martin Luther King Jr., James Farmer, Roy Wilkins, and Whitney Young. They were late so the citizens decided to march by themselves. In the afternoon, they made it to the Lincoln Memorial which was the time for speeches and performances. Some notable performances were MLK Jr.’s speech, songs by Bob Dylan, and a song by Mahalia Jackson. In the end, it was a success to demonstrate what the protesters wanted in a very peaceful way. Malcolm X criticized it calling it a “picnic” and “Farce on Washington” because it let whites march with them and to him it didn’t express the anger and pain the African Americans had to experience throughout their time in America. It still inspired international support with other countries planning their own marches.

The importance of this event is that it had an effect that was the large enough to affect the decision of America. It was not only the most vital protest in the Civil Right Movements but it was also the most eye-opening. Many more contributed to the cause after the march because they saw that the protesters were peaceful and were fighting for the right cause. If this never had occurred, many different could’ve happened. First of all, Martin Luther King Jr. might’ve not been killed because without the march not as much would’ve cared of him. Also, the rights they wanted probably wouldn’t be carried out because their demonstrations before had only a small impact. On the other hand, some people said his death rushed congress to oblige to their demands in case of a mass riot. Either way, it would be a different world where African Americans position in the U.S. stayed the same as the sixties.

The March on Washington, a demonstration A. Phillip Randolph created, has values to teach racist America a lesson in manners and equality. This black stone made a ripple that the citizens of the pond actually felt. Many people think that the turning point of the civil rights movement is the march because it caused a revolution in the thinking of everyone either opposed it or unaware. Everything would be significantly different for the worse without this time changing demonstration.